Increase in salinity of soil by Tsunami waves

2307. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent Tsunami waves have increased the salinity of soil of several areas in different States who suffered due to Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and District-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information available, due to Tsunami waves following types of damages have been caused to agricultural land.

(i) Areas flooded by Tsunami have left behind salt deposited on the upper surface of soil making it Saline and Alkaline.

(ii) Areas where seawater entered have resulted into salinity of ground water.

(iii) Continuation of submergence due to inundation of seawater has made cultivable land unfit for agricultural cultivation.

As per available estimates, the details of area affected and assistance approved by the Union Government under Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package, in the Tsunami affected States/Union Territories are as below:

Sl.No.	State/UT	Area Affected (in hectares)	Total Package (Rs. in crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	790	70.00
2.	Kerala	8153	249.36
3.	Tamil Nadu	13569	2347.19
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	11010	821.88
5.	Pondicherry	1100	155.62
	TOTAL		3644.05